

RR4 Box 248B
Delhi NY 13753
May 8, 1999

Dockets Management Branch(HFA-305)
Docket No. 98N-1265
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville MD 20857

0578 '99 MAY 14 P3:23

Dear People:

I strongly oppose the MOU being circulated to state boards of pharmacy limiting the number of compounded prescriptions that can be shipped over state lines by specialized pharmacies. The words "inordinate amount" seem particularly peculiar. But actually I don't see why there has to be any limits at all.

I have been using a compounded hormone replacement prescription for three years now and have found it to be so beneficial. I had been using the usual synthetic hormone replacements and had a series of very unpleasant side effects. First I started having mock periods. This wasn't tragic but it certainly is not positive. Then, after several months of use I developed severe breast tenderness. This was helped by taking 1/4 of the progesterone each day and taking it and the premarin every day but it did mean cutting up the little progesterone tablets. The mock periods stopped but then I began spotting at various times throughout the month. The sporadic nature of this was very frustrating! It also made me nervous because it just didn't seem normal.

When a friend told me about her success with compounded hormone replacement therapy I told my doctor. My doctor researched the possibility, decided it sounded promising and called in a prescription for me. I began taking the compounded prescription through Madison Pharmacy Associates and all my unpleasant symptoms vanished - immediately - no mock periods, no breast discomfort, no spotting. And I had only 1 capsule to take each night - no cutting up little tablets!

The thought of not being able to get my prescription from a company I have grown to trust really makes me angry. I can't see any reason why the FDA suddenly wishes to limit the number of compounded prescriptions that this specialized pharmacy can send across state lines. Please, please, do not restrict the availability of individually compounded prescriptions.

Sincerely,

Kate Ryan

copy to Lawrence H. Mokhiber, R.Ph, Executive Secretary, NY State Board of Pharmacy.

98N-1265

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